



WMS/LSS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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A 501(c)3 Corporation and Chapter of the Florida Anthropological Society

The Warm Mineral Springs/Little Salt Spring Archaeological Society meets the second Tuesday of the month (except June through August) at 7:00 PM, North Port Community United Church of Christ, located at 3450 S. Biscayne Blvd. Meetings are free and open to the public.
HAPPY NEW YEAR 2017!

THE HIGHLANDS COUNTY GOODNOW MOUND TOPIC OF JANUARY 10 MEETING

Local avocational historian Bill Goetz will be the speaker at our January 10 meeting with a program titled "The Goodnow Mound: A Case and Field Study in Colonial Influences on Indigenous Cultures in Florida."

A portion of the Goodnow site was first excavated by archaeologists John Griffin and Hale Smith in 1948 for the Florida Board of Forestry and Parks. The report on the findings was the first archaeological publication of the Florida Parks Service. Two more archaeological excavations followed. Threatened by development, the owners of the site allowed avocational archaeologists to further excavate the site. The property, located in Highlands County just 12 miles north of the Blueberry site, where similar artifacts have been found, was never developed and some portions of the site remain.

These sites were both in use by Florida aboriginal people during the time of first contact with the Spanish, as evidenced in the amazing artifacts recovered, and provide wealth of information for research and interpretation. (Goodnow p. 2).



January speaker Bill Goetz

JUDI BAUER TO SPEAK FEBRUARY 14 ON THE RIPLEY, OHIO, UNDERGROUND RAILROAD FOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Adapted from the Sept/Oct 2016 WMS/LSSAS Newsletter

During our October 15 field trip to the Chidsey Historical Exhibits and Education Center for a tour of the facility and to hear a presentation by Judi Bauer about the involvement of her third great uncle, the Reverend John Radkin, in the Underground Railroad in Ohio, we decided to invite her to speak at our February 14 meeting for Black History Month. We will have the nicest speaker visit us on Valentine's Day.

The Reverend John Rankin, Presbyterian minister and famous abolitionist, was the organizer and operator of the Ohio Underground Railroad in Ripley, Ohio. His house and property, high on a hill, overlook the Ohio River and the state of Kentucky. Their property is known as "Slavery Refuge" and their "100 Freedom Steps to Liberty Hill" is available for the "hearty" to climb. It is now a state-owned museum, open to the public Memorial Day through mid-October. It was designated as a National Historic Landmark in 1997.



February speaker Judi Bauer points to the Ohio River where her third great uncle's Underground Railroad crossed the river.

From 1822 to 1865, it is noted that Reverend Rankin; his wife, Jean Lowry Rankin; and their 13 children were attributed with saving over 2,000 runaway slaves by giving them temporary shelter and guiding them on their journey to Canada, where they would be free.

Harriet Beecher Stowe's father was also a Presbyterian minister in nearby Cincinnati and a friend of Reverend Rankin. Their families visited one another several times and, during these visits, Harriet Beecher Stowe, as a young girl, learned of the Rankin family "saving" the runaway slave woman "Eliza" and her baby, crossing over the frozen Ohio, providing them shelter, and eventually guiding them on their journey to freedom in Canada. This story inspired Harriet Beecher Stowe to write *Uncle Tom's Cabin*.

The Cincinnati Freedom Museum dedicates one floor of this five-story building to Reverend John Rankin and all others who participated in guiding runaway slaves throughout Ohio to freedom.

GOODNOW SITE (from Page 1)

The Goodnow artifact assemblage includes thousands of beads made of glass, amber, stone, and silver, along with two small tablets made of silver and one made of lead. The largest tablet was the only one made from lead found until another was recently recovered from ongoing excavations at the Blueberry Site, but this tablet remains the largest found. Archaeologists George Luer and John Goggin have both published on the collection.

This talk will tell a story of what the artifacts from Goodnow convey, the mystery they still present, and the journey to their current home at the Museum of Florida Art and Culture in Avon Park, where much of the collection is on display and available for academic research.

Bill currently serves on the Sarasota County Historical Commission, Sarasota County Historical Marker Committee, and Sarasota County Historical Education Committee. He also serves as Vice President of the Friends of Little Salt Spring and is an active member of the Warm Mineral Springs/Little Salt Spring Archaeological Society.

REFLECTIONS: A HISTORY OF SARASOTA COUNTY PRESENTED AT THE DECEMBER 13 MEETING

By Judi and John Crescenzo

December 13, 2016, we met to enjoy the video *Reflections — A History of Sarasota County*, a 2003 production sponsored by the Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources; Sarasota County History Center; and the Gulf Coast Heritage Association, Inc. The video illustrated the depth and breadth of our county's rich cultural heritage.

Florida was first inhabited at the end of the last Ice Age around 12,000 years ago. Sinkholes such as Warm Mineral Springs and Little Salt Spring in North Port were sources of water and have been found to contain some of the oldest human remains and artifacts in Florida. Evidence of the entire span of prehistory is represented in Sarasota County, from Florida's first Paleoindian people, through the Archaic period, to the coastal inhabitants who left middens and mounds, and the first Spanish

explorers who encountered them in the early 1500s.

By the mid 1700s, most of the indigenous Florida native cultures were decimated due to European diseases for which they had no immunity. Many of those first encountered were enslaved and attempts were made to missionize them to exploit their labor, which nearly led to their demise. Those Native Americans entering the state to replace them from Georgia and Alabama became the Florida Seminole, who, after much hardship, were unconquered despite three wars in an attempt to remove and annihilate them in the 1800s.

Historic Spanish Point middens were made of oyster and other marine shell and contain the bones of fish, raccoon, deer, and other animals, and charred plant remains, as well as artifacts such as stone, bone, and shell tools and pottery representing the diet and technology of everyday life on the coast. Some of the first Europeans on the Gulf Coast were Spanish fisherman from Cuba, who interacted with the Seminole. In 1843, William Whittaker settled at Yellow Bluffs near Sarasota Bay, where he raised cattle and grew citrus. In the 1850s, more cattlemen arrived. In 1867, John and Eliza Webb settled at Spanish Point. They grew crops and shipped citrus to Key West and Cedar Key, using the water for transportation because there were no roads. In 1868, Jesse Knight of Hillsborough County moved to Horse and Chaise, which later became Venice. In the 1880s, John Crowley, a farmer, blacksmith, and cattleman, settled at Myakka.

Between 1885–1910, colonists from Scotland moved to the area, expecting to find a city. Instead they found only wilderness, so most left in a few months. In 1886, John Gillespie built a golf course and hotel, and in 1892 rail service reached the area. The early railway was called the "slow and wobbly," and it lasted only a year. By 1902, Sarasota was incorporated and Gillespie became the mayor. Power and ice plants were built, and the Seaboard Railway came to town. A new African American community began in Sarasota in 1897. Harry Higley moved to south Sarasota to promote shore communities and lived on Little Sarasota Key. "Siesta on the Gulf" became known as Siesta Key. Access was by boat only until a bridge over the bay was built in 1917. To the south, the Hermitage was built in 1907 on Manasota Key. The turpentine industry flourished in the pine flatwoods of the interior. After the trees were used for turpentine, they were harvested as lumber in the area now known as Laurel.

During the pre-boom years (1910–1921), Bertha Palmer, a widow from Chicago, set the stage for growth when she built her bay-front home called the Oaks at Spanish Point. By 1917, Palmer and her sons owned 90,000 acres in Sarasota County. The population increased when Dr. Fred Albee, John Ringling, and Owen Burns moved to the area. The African American community of New Town was created outside of the Sarasota city limits, and many people from Overtown moved to Newtown.

Roads continued to be a problem until Henry C. Webb invented the cutting plough to clear a roadway called "the Velvet Highway," which later became Tamiami Trail. Sarasota women's clubs brought concerts, poetry, lectures, and libraries to the county.

During the boom years (1921–1926), business leaders established Sarasota as a county, separating it from Manatee

County. Burns, a realtor, built a bank, an upscale hotel, and various homes, such as those in the Burns Court area. In the 1920s, Owens and John Ringling continued extensive development. Burns prepared the land and built a causeway. John Ringling built along the coast, while his brother Charles built inland. The Sarasota Terrace Hotel opened in 1925, and a Mediterranean Revival Courthouse was built in 1927. *Ca'd'Zan* or house of John, was built by John Ringling using Renaissance and Baroque styles. The Edwards Theater was constructed in 1926, and it is now the Sarasota Opera House.

In 1925, Dr. Fred Albee hired John Nolen to design Venice. The Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers was a union that called Venice home. Without the railroad, development would not have taken place in Venice. Northern Italian architecture and many parks were part of the Nolen plan. The Depression of 1929 actually hit Florida in 1926, and Venice became a ghost town. Most construction was stopped, and for a while the town plans existed on paper only. The video was just starting to describe the rich history of Englewood when technical difficulties occurred. It is amazing how much history is in Sarasota County and, even with the technical difficulties, all enjoyed the evening. The meeting was followed by a social with snacks and drinks provided by board members and guests.

SPANISH RANCHOS TOPIC OF NOVEMBER 8 MEETING

By Judi and John Crescenzo

On November 8th, archaeologist Meg Stack presented "An Archaeological and Archival Appraisal of the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Century 'Spanish Indians' on the West Coast of Florida." Ms. Stack is employed as a Project Archaeologist for Cardno in Tampa, FL. Her research interests have focused on Spanish fishing ranchos on the coast of southwest Florida.

Spanish ranchos proliferated in southwest Florida from 1780 to 1840 as fisheries, which created a trade network between Spanish Cubans and Florida Indians. Trade vessels moved fish and shark oil between Havana and Tampa south to Charlotte Harbor. The people on these ranchos were originally seasonal, but after some time began to live there year round, where they fished and gardened. Some of the men married Seminole in Florida and established families. Eventually, some of these families moved back to Cuba.

One of Ms. Stack's main interests in the ranchos was to determine whether ethnogenesis had occurred there. This can be defined as a cultural blending of two groups of people, and is also often known as creolization. In order to do this, she examined the archaeological record at the ranchos and compared it with other historic sites that had been determined to have experienced creolization. A case study of Spanish Indians in St. Augustine revealed adaptations between Native Americans and Spanish.

Because they were considered a lower class, Indians tried to hide their links to the past. Female activities in the kitchen and where children were fed and clothed show a material culture that was more Native American. Men hunted, were in the military, and built homes. As revealed by the archaeological record, their activities show a stronger Hispanic than Indian influence. Items of Spanish origin were more conspicuous

because the Indian past was hidden. This indicates a strong level of creolization.

It was thought that hierarchies in southwest Florida would be like those in St. Augustine, but quite the opposite was discovered. Ranchos had simple thatch homes showing Indian influence, not Spanish. Rancho gardens were like those of the Seminoles, which was a shift away from Creole culture. People from the ranchos were practical and brought utilitarian items from Cuba. They adopted parts of culture that simplified their lives, but this was not the actual synthesis or creolization found in St. Augustine. Meg covered so much interesting history in such a short period of time and we thank her for joining us and sharing her knowledge.



Archaeologist Meg Stack received our world famous tee-shirt at the November meeting.

UPCOMING EVENTS

There are so many great things to choose from going on in the coming months, with some events overlapping. It is just not possible to name them all now, so we will update via email following this newsletter in the coming days.

January 17, 2017: The Friends of Little Salt Spring will hold their second annual dinner/social/fundraiser, followed by guest speaker and annual meeting, at the Jockey Club, located at 3050 Pan American Blvd. in North Port (at the corner of Pan American Blvd. and Appomattox Dr.). The first event, held on January 11, 2016 (at the same location), was a dinner social for the History and Preservation Coalition of Sarasota County. This year's social will be followed by dinner, followed by a guest speaker and annual meeting at 7:00 PM. There will be a \$25 donation requested for the social and dinner (hence modest fundraiser) and the presentation and annual meeting is free and open to the public.

The special guest speaker for the annual meeting, Steve Koski, will provide a presentation on "The Archaeology of the Little Salt Spring Upland and Significance of the 112-acre Property." Much of this is new information not presented at a meeting in the past!

It's not just the spring that is significant; the surrounding

landscape is also a natural and cultural-resource wonderland in need of protection. The acreage surrounding the spring functions as a natural ecosystem, protective buffer, and local recharge zone for the spring. It helps to sustain the health of the spring — one of the last remaining fragments of the Pleistocene/Holocene lacustrine ecosystem in the southeastern United States, sustained for thousands of years by the cenote and spring. It has been flowing for at least 8,500 years and opened as portal to the underworld more than 14,000 years ago, as evidenced by the extinct Pleistocene remains on the 90-foot ledge.

Steve will also discuss the importance of the property's connectivity to the Myakkahatchee Creek, a portion of which is slated for development, which, if moves forward, would close its connectivity as a greenway from the LSS property to the creek corridor, which extends into north Sarasota County well past State Road 72 to the north and the Myakka River and Charlotte Harbor to the south.

This Myakkahatchee greenway corridor runs through the heart of North Port and provides drinking water to the city and natural habitat for plants and animals, such as deer, bob cat, and many other species. It is their highway and sanctuary and is critical for their survival.

The City of North Port is on an acquisition campaign to protect, preserve, and expand the Myakkahatchee greenway corridor; their efforts should be commended and supported wholeheartedly. And the LSS component of this greenway connectivity should be included in this priority to prevent further fragmentation from the life-sustaining force of North Port's ecosystems. Please attend and learn about this important cause, because you don't know what you've lost — until it's gone.

February 25, 2017: The History and Preservation Coalition of Sarasota County is to hold their Annual luncheon/fundraiser in conjunction with their first annual Historic Preservation Awards Ceremony at the Venice Golf and Country Club, located at 250 Venice Golf Club Drive in Venice. Tickets are \$40 per person

This is sure to be an elegant and exciting event. The program will start with a social gathering at 11:00 AM, followed by a gourmet lunch buffet at noon with grilled salmon, chicken, roast beef cutting station, rice pilaf, house salad, and desert. At 1:00 PM the awards will be given to individuals in four categories to recognize their outstanding contributions in Historical Research, Historic Preservation, Archaeological Conservancy, and Public Education. The presidents of both WMS/LSSAS and TimeSifters Archaeological Society nominated Sarasota County George Luer for their Archaeological Conservancy awards independently, without knowing the other was submitting. That is no coincidence because George has been doing archaeology longer than anyone else in Southwest Florida and has had more publications in *The Florida Anthropologist* than anyone.

Manasota Key Club Speaker Series/Luncheons to begin January!

The 2017 January speaker series of the Manasota Key Club, now in its 30th year, will begin January 9 with three luncheon presentations. MBC offers three lectures on "Manasota Key Ecology, Gulf, Bay, and Beach" by a variety of scholars.

January 9: Philip Stevens, Research Scientist, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, "Beneath the Sea: Along the Beaches and in the Bay, Fish Research is Underway."

January 16: Judy Ott, Chief Scientist, Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program, "Introduction to Lemon Bay and the Charlotte Harbor Ecology: The National Estuary Program – What's in it for you?"

January 23: Melynda Brown, Florida DEP Aquatic Preserve Manager, "Lemon Bay Aquatic Preserve Management Plan."

MBC is located at 7660 Manasota Key Road, Englewood, FL. The noon lunch (casual dining) and lecture is from 12:00–1:30, with a reasonable cost of \$22.00. Reservations only please (limited to 50). Call 941-474-2614.

TIME TO RENEW YOUR WMS/LSSAS MEMBERSHIP FOR 2017!

Thanks to all our loyal members who helped make 2016 a great year! We couldn't do it without you! It's time to please renew your membership if you have not already done so. While our meetings are free and open to the public, we have annual operating expenses we could not meet without membership support. Membership forms are included within the January/February Newsletter, with addressed envelopes, so please renew for 2017 or become a new member! And there is more to come in 2017 with our great monthly speaker series, field trips, events, and more to be announced.

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